

1. Name: Baltzley "Castle"
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 35/29/1 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 20  
J-15
4. Address: 5415 Mohican Road, Glen Echo Heights
5. Classification Summary
- |                    |                          |                           |   |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Category           | <u>building</u>          | Previous Survey Recording | <u>M-NCPPC</u>  |
| Ownership          | <u>private</u>           | Title and Date:           | <u>Inventory of Historical</u>                            |
| Public Acquisition | <u>NA</u>                |                           | <u>Sites - 1976</u>                                       |
| Status             | <u>occupied</u>          |                           |   |
| Accessible         | <u>no</u>                | Federal                   | <u>State</u> <u>X</u> <u>County</u> <u>X</u> <u>Local</u> |
| Present use        | <u>private residence</u> |                           |   |
6. Date: 1890 7. Original Owner: Edwin and Edward Baltzley
8. Apparent Condition
- a. good b. altered c. original site
9. Description: Architect Theophilus Parsons Chandler designed this house with 4 foot thick granite at the base, tapering to 18 inches on the fourth floor. Chestnut framing, paneling and woodwork trim the stone, 5 bay, 2½ story house. Featured are a crenelated porte-cochere, a wooden deck around 2 sides, glass and wooden paneled double doors and a circular front porch. There is a one-story lean-to addition with half-hipped roof on the southeast elevation. Windows are one-over-one and diamond-paned over one single light double-hung, flanked by green louvered or paneled wooden shutters. The multi-planed, generally hipped roof is covered by red slate tile. There are 3 exterior chimneys with fieldstone bases and corbelled caps. Inside, curved walls encircle a chestnut stairway with a floor-to-ceiling carved chestnut newel post. The fireplaces are constructed of rough-faced ashlar blocks.
10. Significance: A Victorian fantasy "castle" with panoramic views of the Potomac, the 1890 "Baltzley" house is an inspiring reminder of the two men who developed the Glen Echo area and helped found the Glen Echo National Chautauqua, and who influenced new houseing in the area as well as the trolley route. Edward and Edwin Baltzley bought 516 acres of land in 1888, built the Chautauqua and sold lots for a planned development across the street. Houses were to be of brick, stone or metal, but the use of granite was encouraged by offering stone delivered at quarry cost. The Baltzley house, one of two actually built, cost a total of \$18,000.
- A disastrous fire at the Glen Echo Cafe in November 1890, coupled with rumors of malarial mosquitoes, put an abrupt end not only to the Glen Echo Chautauqua, but also to the Baltzleys' real estate business. Edward, then Edwin, lived here until possibly 1907. The house had a succession of owners and boarders, until 1960 when the present owners bought it.
11. Researcher and date researched: Carlotta Anderson-4/79 Candy Reed  
Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Peg Coleman 13. Date Compiled: 6/79 14. Designation  
Approval
15. Acreage: .58 acres



## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 35/29/1  
Magi #

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Baltzley "Castle"

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5415 Mohican Road

CITY, TOWN

Glen Echo Heights

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Paul W. and Elizabeth Carol Schafer Telephone #: (301) 229-4190

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5415 Mohican Road

CITY, TOWN

Glen Echo Heights

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20016

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 2697

Folio #: 135

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855



**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:35-29-1

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This five bay, two-and-a-half story house faces southwest, and is approached from the northeast.

Constructed of stone, this house has chestnut framing and woodworking. There is a crenelated porte-cochere on the northeast elevation which measures two arches by two arches. A wooden deck, enclosed by a balustraded railing, wraps around from the northeast to the northwest elevation. It is supported by iron braces. The northeast double doors are glass and wooden paneled. There is a circular porch with a flat roof enclosed by a balustraded railing and supported by four stone posts on the southwest elevation. There is a pair of French doors on the southwest elevation which open onto the southwest porch. There is a one story lean-to addition with a half hipped roof on the southeast elevation. There is a glass and wooden paneled door northeast of this addition.

There are one-over-one and diamond-paned over one single light double-hung windows throughout the house, flanked by green louvered or paneled wooden shutters. A two story square bay window is located at the south corner of the southwest elevation, with a three story tower with a conical roof at the west corner of that southwest elevation. There are two gabled three vertical panes over one single light double hung dormer windows on the southwest and northeast elevations, and one such gabled dormer window on the northwest elevation.

The multi-planed roof with a generally hipped profile has red slate tile covering. There are three exterior chimneys with fieldstone bases and corbelled caps at the northwest and southeast elevations.

The northeast door opens into a foyer with a curved wall connecting the northwest and southwest walls. Northwest of the curved wall is the large living room. A closed string triple-run chestnut stairway ascends along the southeast wall. This stairway is unusual for its floor-to-ceiling carved chestnut newel post. Southeast of the hall is the dining room and northeast of the dining room is the kitchen.

The floors are narrow hardwood. The walls and ceilings are plaster-over-lath with crown moldings. There are large sliding wooden paneled doors leading from the southwest hall into the dining and living rooms, and chestnut paneled window surrounds and woodwork. The fireplaces are constructed of rough faced ashlar blocks.



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Theophilus Parsons Chandler

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A Victorian fantasy "castle" with panoramic views of the Potomac, the 1890 "Baltzley" house at 5415 Mohican Road, Glen Echo Heights, is an imposing reminder of the two men who developed the Glen Echo and Glen Echo Heights areas and helped found the Glen Echo National Chautauqua. Except for the Chataqua Tower which still stands at Glen Echo Park, their magnificent stone house is the lone survivor of a grandiose scheme to create a Washington "Rhineland of the Potomac".

Twin brothers Edward and Edwin Baltzley from New Philadelphia, Ohio,<sup>1</sup> in 1888 bought some 516 acres of land from William and Sarah M. Reading,<sup>2</sup> and which originally was patented by Daniel Magruder and Charles Beall in 1726 as "Magruder and Beall's Honesty".<sup>3</sup> Edwin was a prolific inventor and had made about a quarter of a million dollars on a mechanical eggbeater he patented in 1885 - money used to buy the land.<sup>4</sup> It extended from Cabin John Creek east to the Walhonding Road area overlooking Sycamore Island.<sup>5</sup>

The brothers set up their real estate office in the wildly fanciful Glen Echo Cafe which they built above Sycamore Island.<sup>6</sup> They sold lots, only for "houses of brick, stone or metal of not less value than \$3,000,"<sup>7</sup> but encouraged "the erection of none but granite houses" and promised stone from five local quarries "at the bare cost of quarrying".<sup>8</sup> They planned a gigantic fortress-like riverview hotel to be called "The Mohican,"<sup>9</sup> and built their own Mohican Road house in imitation of a castle and probably as a model home for the area. They also deeded 80 acres in 1891 to the "National Chautauqua of Glen Echo" and became members of the board of trustees.<sup>10</sup> By summer 1891, completed structures for this center of culture and education included an amphitheatre seating 8,000, a hall of philosophy, an entrance complex with two stone towers and a tent hotel.<sup>11</sup>

But these dreams soon proved to be castles in the air. The vast Glen Echo Cafe - with its many halls, balconies, towers and bridges built of 30,000 cedar trees - was destroyed by fire on November 29, 1890,<sup>12</sup> and Edwin Baltzley and his family, who were living there at the time, barely escaped with their lives.<sup>13</sup> The National Chautauqua's first season in the summer of 1891 was extremely successful and land sales in the area were brisk.<sup>14</sup> But rumors of malarial mosquitoes caused the cancellation of further Chautauqua summer seasons,<sup>15</sup> and by 1897 the Amphitheatre was used only for vaudeville.<sup>16</sup> The rumors put an abrupt end not only to the Glen Echo Chautauqua but also to the Baltzleys' real estate business.<sup>17</sup>

Although it was Edwin Baltzley's money that financed it,<sup>18</sup> the Glen Echo land and the house at 5415 Mohican Road were owned by Edward and his wife, Laura.<sup>19</sup> Designed by architect Theophilus Parsons Chandler, it was built in 1890 for just under \$18,000.<sup>20</sup> The walls were of four foot thick

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY granite at the base, tapering to a minimum of 18 inches on the fourth floor.<sup>21</sup> (continued-Attachment A)



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Attachment Sheets C &amp; D.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .58 acres

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

#5415 - Part of Lots C &amp; D, Block 3 "Glen Echo Heights"

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Carlotta Anderson

Candy Reed

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

4/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS

Box 87, Stronghold  
 Dickerson, Md. 20753  
 (301) 926-4510



Although there is an inexplicable two month period from May 2 to July 23, 1891, when the property was owned by Jesse and Nora M. Brown,<sup>22</sup> the Edward Baltzleys were living in the house on August 1, 1891.<sup>23</sup> Edward went west to look for gold in 1892 and died of mercury poisoning July 30, 1907, in Hot Springs, Ark.<sup>24</sup> Edwin, meanwhile, was personal secretary to Sen. John A. Sherman, author of the Anti-Trust Act and the Gold and Silver Act.<sup>25</sup> He moved into Edward's house around 1897 and lived there until 1904, or possibly until 1907.<sup>26</sup> He died in Glen Ridge, N.J. March 14, 1919.<sup>26a</sup>

At approximately the same time Edward Baltzley's home was being built, a much less imposing stone house was built next door at 5417 Mohican Road for R.A. Charles, of the Treasury Department.<sup>27</sup> The land was purchased from Edward and Laura Baltzley on February 26, 1890,<sup>28</sup> and Chandler may again have been the architect. The Baltzleys never resided in this house.<sup>29</sup>

The larger house then went through a succession of owners. Victor L. and Della R. Sipos owned it from 1920 to 1949;<sup>30</sup> during this ownership some "young Turks" in President Franklin Roosevelt's cabinet reportedly "made a sort of BOQ of it," and during World War II, a group of career professionals apparently lived in a sort of boarding house there. Lloyd Potter in 1958 bought the property to subdivide the land.<sup>31</sup> He bought three-and-a-half acres, remodeled and repaired the Baltzley house and sold it with a half acre of land to Dr. Paul W. Schafer, a surgeon, and his wife, Elizabeth Carol Schafer, the present owners, in 1960. On the rest of the land he built seven houses.<sup>32</sup>

The Schafers also bought the former Charles house at 5417 Mohican Rd., in 1962, a house they rent out.<sup>33</sup> Vera Charles, unmarried and possibly Richard's sister, acquired the property with Richard in 1915 from Amelia R. Charles, his sister, who got it from Richard the same date,<sup>34</sup> and Richard bought it from Edward and Laura Baltzley in 1890,<sup>35</sup> who in turn bought it from the Readings for \$20,000 on the same date as they bought the adjoining property.<sup>36</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Illustrated Washington: Our Capital, 1891, two copies in private hands. Xeroxed pages owned by historian Richard Cook, 431 West Side Drive, Gaithersburg, Md. 20760, tel. 926-7690
- 2 Land Records of Montgomery County, JA 11/70
- 3 Research by Nettie Mae Burgess of 6109 Broad St., Brookmont, Md. tel. 229-2414, owner of 44 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, where Edwin Baltzley lived immediately after the Glen Echo Cafe fire.
- 4 Article (and slide show) by Carol Barton, Glen Echo Park historian, "The Glen Echo Barometer: A History of Glen Echo Park." 1979, no paging.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet B)



Attachment Sheet B  
Baltzley "Castles"

M: 35/29/1  
Magi #

- 5 Glen Echo Chautauqua on the Potomac, Benjamin Levy, National Park Service publication, June 15, 1967. p.3
- 6 Glen Echo on the Potomac, E. & E. Baltzley, Frank Gutekunst Press, Philadelphia, 1891, reprinted May 1978 by the Writer's Center, Glen Echo Park, p.8, etc.
- 7 Land Records of Montgomery County, JA 27/330, 21/70
- 8 Glen Echo on the Potomac, p.35
- 9 Ibid., p.36
- 10 Glen Echo Chatauqua on the Potomac, p. 7 & 8
- 11 Article by Carol Barton
- 12 Washington Post article, November 29, 1890
- 13 Glen Echo Chautauqua on the Potomac, p. 6, and oral history from Edwin Baltzley's daughter Louise Spiers, given to historian Richard Cook.
- 14 Glen Echo Chautauqua on the Potomac, p. 17
- 15 Article by Carol Barton
- 16 Glen Echo Chautauqua on the Potomac, p.18
- 17 Ibid., p. 18, and article by Carol Barton
- 18 Oral history from Louise Spiers
- 19 Land Records of Montgomery County, JA 27/330.
- 20 The Glen Echoan, pub. 1892 by E. & E. Baltzley, copy owned by Richard Cook. Original architect's drawing at Fine Arts Library, University of Pennsylvania, Phila.
- 21 Research by Richard Cook
- 22 Land Records of Montgomery County, JA 27/330, JA 27/496.
- 23 "Roadside Sketches," The Evening Star, Aug. 1, 1891
- 24 Research by Richard Cook, article by Carol Barton
- 25 Illustrated Washington: Our Capital

(Continued on Attachment Sheet C)



- 26 Oral history from Louise Spiers
- 26a Researched by Richard Cook from probate papers
- 27 "Roadside Sketches" and Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly, June 27, 1891, researched by Richard Cook
- 28 Land Records of Montgomery County, 21/70.
- 29 Oral history from Louise Spiers
- 30 Land Records, 292/65
- 31 Land Records, 2505/469
- 32 Oral history from Lloyd A. Potter, 10700 Lockland Road, Potomac tel. 299-9099 and Montgomery County Land Records, 2697/135.
- 33 Land Records of Montgomery County, 3041/365.
- 34 Land Records of Montgomery County 252/129; 252/127
- 35 Ibid., 21/70
- 36 Ibid., 11/71

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cook, Richard. Illustrated Washington: Our Capital, 1891. Unpublished manuscript of author; Gaithersburg, Md.

Burgess, Nettie Mae, Glen Echo, Md. Interview, 1979.

Oral History from Louise Spiers

Research by Richard Cook

Barton, Carol. "The Glen Echo Barometer: A History of Glen Echo Park," 1979.

Levy, Benjamin. "Glen Echo Chautauqua on the Potomac," National Park Service, 1967.

Potter, Lloyd A., Potomac, Md. Interview, 1979.

Land Records of Montgomery County: JA 11/70; JA 27/330; JA 27/496; 21/70; 292;65; 2505/469; 3041/365; 2697/135; 252/127; 252/129; 21/70; 11/71.



Attachment Sheet D  
Baltzley "Castles"

M: 35/29/1  
Magi #

Washington Post, Washington, D.C., November 29, 1890.

Baltzley, Edwin and Edward. The Glen Echoan; E. & E. Baltzley, 1892.

The Evening Star; "Roadside Sketches," August 1, 1891.

Baltzley, E. & E., Glen Echo on the Potomac, Frank Gutekunst Press, Philadelphia, 1891, reprinted May 1978 by the Writer's Center, Glen Echo Park.



M: 35-4-1

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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
Real Property Data Search

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[New Search](#)

Account Identifier: District - 07 Account Number - 00508301

## Owner Information

Owner Name: SCHAFFER, PAUL W & E C      Use: RESIDENTIAL  
Principal Residence: YES  
Mailing Address: 5415 MOHICAN ROAD      Deed Reference: 1) / 2697/ 135  
WASHINGTON DC 20816      2)

## Location &amp; Structure Information

Premises Address      Zoning      Legal Description  
5415 MOHICAN RD      R90      PT LOTS C & D GLEN E  
BETHESDA 20816           CHO HGTS

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
GM53		N531		29		3		81	Plat Ref:
Special Tax Areas			Town Ad Valorem Tax Class	38					
Primary Structure Built			Enclosed Area	Property Land Area			County Use		
1883			4,240 SF	25,264.00 SF			111		
Stories		Basement		Type			Exterior		
2 1/2		YES		STANDARD UNIT			STONE		

## Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2002	Phase-in Assessments	
			As Of 07/01/2002	As Of 07/01/2003
Land:	199,260	249,260		
Improvements:	502,460	563,220		
Total:	701,720	812,480	738,640	775,560
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

## Transfer Information

Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

## Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2002	07/01/2003
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: NO  
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

\* NONE \*

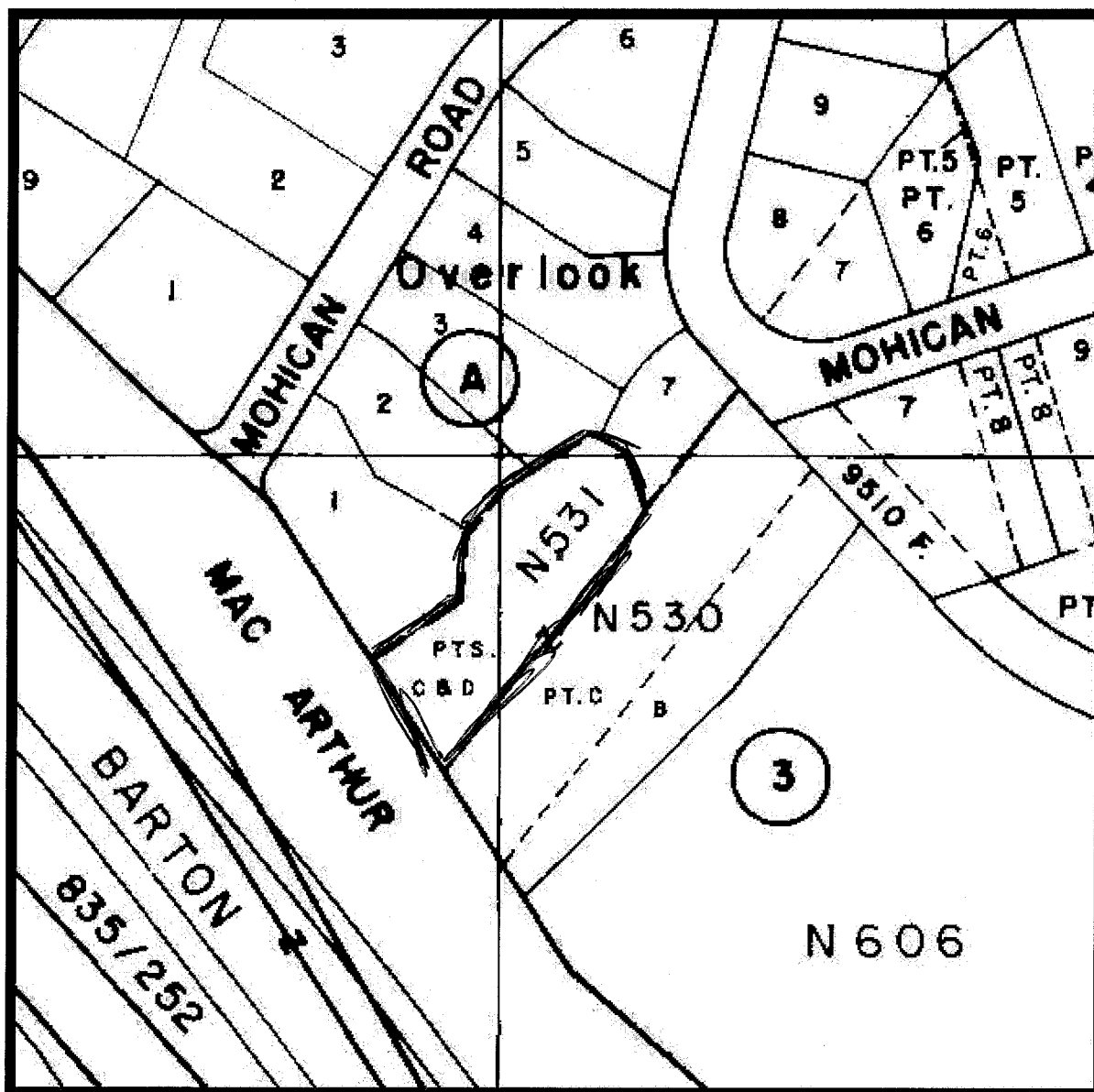




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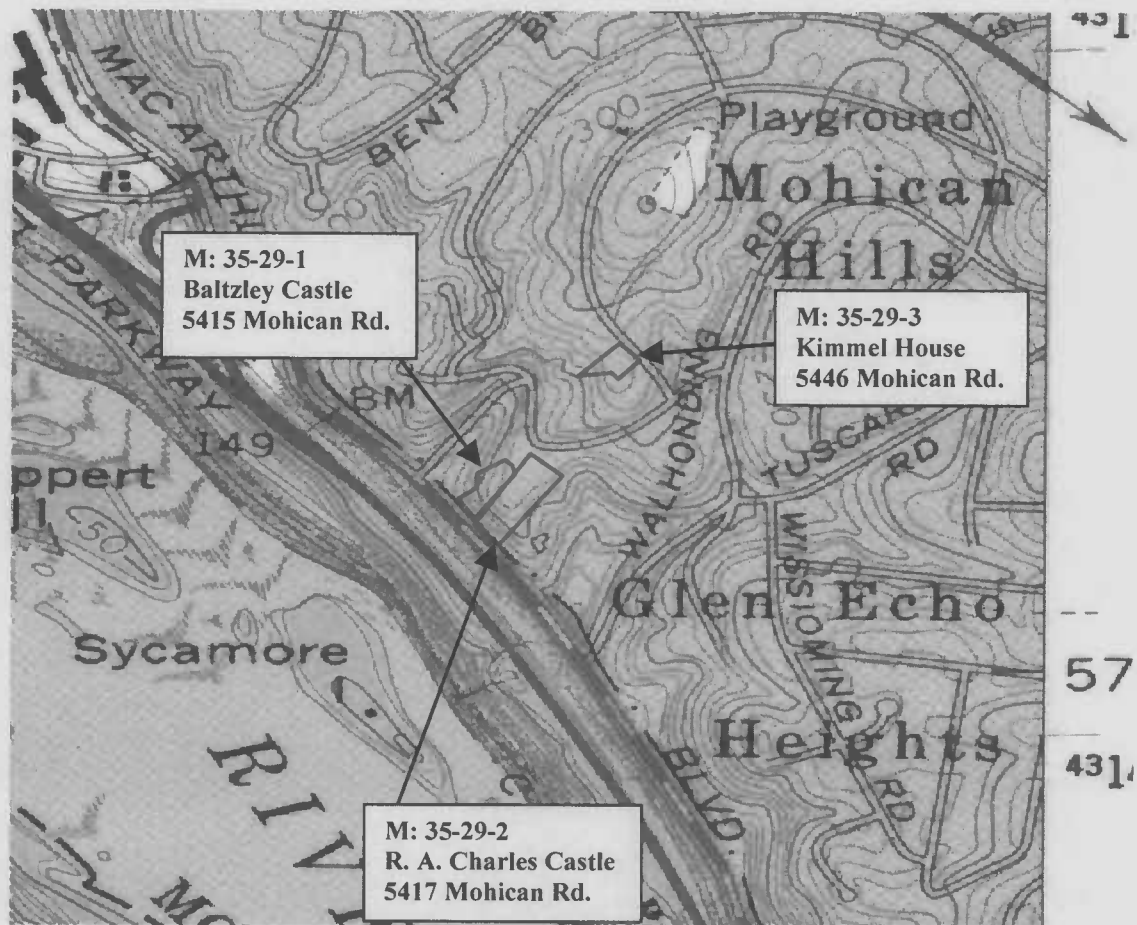
District - 07 Account Number - 00508301



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For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning  
web site at [www.mdp.state.md.us](http://www.mdp.state.md.us)



M: 35-29- /  
Baltzley Castles  
5415, 5417, and 5446 Mohican Road, Bethesda  
Falls Church Quad









NAME EDWARD BALTZLEY CASTLE

#35-29-1

LOCATION ~~SEOTO RD.~~, GLEN ECHO, MD. (5415 MOHICAN)

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/11/74

M. DWYER